

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

MICHAEL SHEPARD,

Plaintiff,

v.

KELSO, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:20-cv-01445-KJM-JDP (PC)

ORDER REFERRING CASE TO POST-
SCREENING ADR PROJECT AND
STAYING CASE FOR 120 DAYS

Plaintiff is a state prisoner, proceeding with appointed counsel. Defendants have answered the amended complaint.

The undersigned is referring all post-screening civil rights cases filed by pro se state inmates to the Post-Screening Alternative Dispute Resolution (“ADR”) Project in an effort to resolve such cases more expeditiously and less expensively. Defense counsel from the Office of the California Attorney General has agreed to participate in this pilot project. No defenses or objections shall be waived by their participation.

As set forth in the screening order, plaintiff has stated a potentially cognizable civil rights claim. Thus, the court stays this action for a period of 120 days to allow the parties to investigate plaintiff’s claims, meet and confer, and then participate in a settlement conference.

1 There is a presumption that all post-screening prisoner civil rights cases assigned to the
2 undersigned will proceed to settlement conference.¹ However, if after investigating plaintiff's
3 claims and speaking with plaintiff's counsel, and after conferring with defense counsel's
4 supervisor, defense counsel in good faith finds that a settlement conference would be a waste of
5 resources, defense counsel may move to opt out of this pilot project.

6 Within thirty days of the date of this order, the assigned counsel shall contact Courtroom
7 Deputy Nic Cannarozzi, at 916-930-4172, to schedule the settlement conference. If difficulties
8 arise in scheduling the settlement conference due to the court's calendar, the parties may seek an
9 extension of the initial 120-day stay.

10 Once the settlement conference is scheduled, at least seven days prior to the conference,
11 the parties shall submit to the assigned settlement judge a confidential settlement conference
12 statement. The parties' confidential settlement conference statements shall include the following:
13 (a) names and locations of the parties; (b) a short statement of the facts and alleged damages; (c) a
14 short procedural history; (d) an analysis of the risk of liability, including a discussion of the
15 efforts made to investigate the allegations; and (e) a discussion of the efforts that have been made
16 to settle the case.

17 In accordance with the above, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

18 1. This action is stayed for 120 days to allow the parties an opportunity to settle their
19 dispute before the discovery process begins. Except as provided herein or by subsequent court
20 order, no other pleadings or other documents may be filed in this case during the stay of this
21 action. The parties shall not engage in formal discovery, but the parties may elect to engage in
22 informal discovery.

23 2. Within thirty days from the date of this order, the parties shall contact this court's
24 Courtroom Deputy, Nic Cannarozzi, at (916) 930-4172, to schedule the settlement conference.

25 3. At least seven days prior to the settlement conference, each party shall submit a
26 confidential settlement conference statement, as described above, to the judge assigned for
27

28 ¹ If the case does not settle, the court will issue a discovery and scheduling order.

1 settlement.

2 4. If a settlement is reached at any point during the stay of this action, the parties shall file
3 a Notice of Settlement in accordance with Local Rule 160.

4 5. The parties remain obligated to keep the court informed of their current addresses at all
5 times during the stay and while the action is pending. Any change of address must be reported
6 promptly to the court in a separate document captioned for this case and entitled "Notice of
7 Change of Address." *See* L.R. 182(f).

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9 IT IS SO ORDERED.

10 Dated: September 16, 2021

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12 JEREMY D. PETERSON
13 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
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